DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 462 325 SO 031 608

AUTHOR	Wilen, William; Ishler, Margaret; Hutchison, Janice; Kindsvatter, Richard
TITLE	Dynamics of Effective Teaching. Fourth Edition.
ISBN	ISBN-0-8013-3067-X
PUB DATE	2000-00-00
NOTE	411p.; For the first edition, see ED 286 870.
AVAILABLE FROM	Addison Wesley Longman, Inc., Allyn & Bacon, Order Processing Department, P.O. Box 10695, Des Moines, IA 10695 ($74). Tel: 800-666-9433 (Toll Free); Web site: http://www.ablongman.com/.
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Guides - Classroom - Teacher (052)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Classroom Techniques; *Constructivism (Learning); *Decision Making; Democracy; *Instructional Effectiveness; Middle School Teachers; Middle Schools; National Standards; Secondary Education; Secondary School Teachers; *Teacher Effectiveness
IDENTIFIERS	*Instructional Dynamics

ABSTRACT

This volume emphasizes decision-making which links all the other topics together. The book balances two major perspectives influencing teacher decision-making about instruction today: (1) findings from research on effective teaching; and (2) the ideas of constructivism. Unique to the book is the inclusion in each chapter of a scenario in which a middle or secondary school teacher, representing a wide range of subject areas and grade levels, applies key ideas to the classroom. These scenarios appear near the beginning of each chapter, are referred to and analyzed throughout the chapter, and provide a running commentary on the theoretical content being presented. The book features graphic organizers that emphasize key ideas; sections that summarize current research and theoretical literature; boxes that highlight key ideas; and a new chapter emphasizing computers in the classroom entitled, "Instructional Technologies." Chapters in the book are: (1) "Teacher Decision Making"; (2) "Building a Climate for Learning"; (3) "Democratic Classroom Discipline"; (4) "Curriculum Considerations"; (5) "Planning for Teaching"; (6) "Basic Instructional Techniques"; (7) "Primary Instructional Methods"; (8) "Teaching Strategies for Promoting Learning and Achievement"; (9) "Instructional Technologies"; (10) "Evaluation of Classroom Performance"; and (11) "Toward Effective Teaching." Each chapter contains references. (BT)

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